

The Highland Lake Neighbor

Nov—Dec 2023

A round up of timely information about lake health, community focus, neighborhood events and other updates from your Highland Lake Property Owners Association.

For jam-packed updates and useful neighborhood news, visit www.hlcommunitysite.com

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors – The HLPOA Board of Directors exists to serve our community by working to achieve and maintain the highest possible neighborhood standards. As such, we believe it should be the community that chooses Board membership (rather than the Board self-appointing its own ranks. Therefore, HLPOA Board elections will resume in early 2024. I encourage current Board members and community members alike to toss their hats into the ring in an effort to make our community the best possible place to live! The HLPOA Candidate Form is included in this newsletter. More election details to come. Ann

Notable Community Progress Cited at Semi-Annual Meeting

More than 50 neighbors join Board for event

Ann Bidwell spoke about the 2024 Board of Directors will be chosen via community election (instead of Board self appointment). An informal poll has indicated that boat identification will be a priority for the 2024 Board. **Cathy deGroh** spoke on the water project — East and west systems are now connected. Next phase - rezoning Lakeside Dr. property now; in order to build a 100,000 gallon holding tank next year. Residents comments - there are major concerns about this gigantic water tank. Location, appearance, impact on neighborhood. **John Sonnenberg** spoke about the Zebra Mussel Foundation and its emphasis on education. He shared that the money awarded from the Highland Lake Foundation was spent on scholarships for two students who live in our community. **Justin Harris** thanked the many contributors to the upkeep of Downey Park.

Hans Kribbel Informed about progress on revamping access lanes on North Shore with upcoming projects on Oak-, Cedar - and Hickory Lane. He asked for volunteers to repair stairs, install shoreline naturalization and potentially a pier. There were already several hand-raisers for the project, which is planned for next season. This is to give enough time to clear out the current construction debris and the temporary parked catamaran on Cedar. **Jan Katien** described the importance of the HLPOA Audit Committee to the Board's mission of financial transparency. **Patrick Herendeen** spoke about Highland Lake health. "The presence of invasive aquatic plants is minimal, and the reports of good fishing this year are encouraging. Nevertheless, there are areas of concern. A healthy lake should have about 30% cover provided by aquatic plants, and Highland Lake has far less than that. Plants in the lake provide shelter and food for fish, birds and other animals. Submerged native aquatic plants include water lilies and pondweed. The lake shorelines should be vegetated with emergent native plants such as rushes, sedges, and many other plants which resist erosion and trap sediment from entering the lake. Our shoreline plant coverage is quite poor and we are investigating opportunities to enhance shoreline plants and remediate eroding shorelines. How can you help promote a healthy lake? One very important contribution is to avoid using fertilizer – particularly lawn fertilizer - containing phosphorus. Phosphorus encourages the growth of algae and invasive weedy plants in the lake. Native aquatic plants thrive in a low phosphorus environment like Highland Lake."



Volunteers Tammy Kribbel (L) and Kathy Lucas (R) welcomed neighbors attending the recent semi-annual HLPOA meeting.



HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY EFFORT OFF TO GOOD START FOR 2024

Many thanks to those who picked up Operations Christmas Child boxes at the semi-annual meeting to pack and send to kids around the world! We handed out 30 boxes!

Did U Know...we have four food pantries within a two-mile radius of our community? They are ALL in need. This season of giving is a great opportunity to do just that!

- Avon Township Food Pantry-427 Washington Ave Round Lake
- Lord of Glory Lutheran Church-606 W Belvidere Rd Grayslake
- PLAN (People Lending Assistance Network)-1892 N Nicole Lane Round Lake Beach
- Avon Cares Food Pantry-25519 W Rt 134 Ingleside



Editor - Thank you so much for sharing some water conservation tips in the last newsletter. The one topic I hope is elaborated on in the future is water conservation in our residential landscapes. While watering our lawns and gardens in the morning or evening is an important part of water conservation, there are other more sustainable options available. Importantly, I suggest sharing that most grass varieties used for residential lawns are drought tolerant and will green back up after periods of drought. Also, there are myriad resources available on the internet that provide suggestions and guidance on other water conservation tips, such as, reduction of lawns, native gardens and rain garden installation, rainwater and grey water collection and use, mulching and composting practices, and permeable surfaces installation. Sincerely, Maggie Keefe (South Circle Drive)

THE HLPOA BOARD WISHES ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

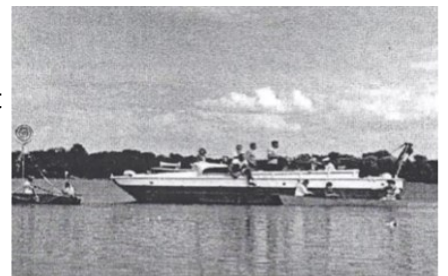
The Good Book Club is a bi-monthly study of the Bible, meeting via **Zoom** Sundays from 4 -5pm. We are currently studying the book of Genesis. **Next meeting December 3.** Join us. **Contact the Lemans, 847.840.0784**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85357613004>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! David Coulter will be speaking on Native plants, trees and grasses at the January 15 HLPOA meeting, 7pm at the Avon Township building.

BOAT ID CASH OPPORTUNITY! The Board requires clerical help as we tackle the huge task of identifying all HLPOA boats. Basic computer skills required. For details call Ann at 708-269-6443.

AQUATIC PLANTS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT — Next year the HLPOA Board plans an aquatic plant survey to assess vegetative growth in our lake and to assist in strategizing future treatments if indicated. Pat Herendeen, a scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden and our Lake Health leader, outlines some of our aquatic plant challenges on Page 1 of this newsletter. Aquatic plant management - including mechanical harvesting, manual harvesting, and herbicides - is all about controlling undesirable species while encouraging the desirable ones.



Bill Ryan's "Duck"



Eurasian Water Milfoil

In the 1960's Highland Lake engaged in mechanical harvesting when resident Bill Ryan purchased a World War II amphibious vehicle (the "Duck") that was 31' long, weighed 7 tons, and could travel on both land and water. Bill and his dad attached a farming hay rake to the rear of the vehicle to clear the weeds (reference *Sailing Through Time* by Marie Caviness). Harvesting has its risks, including possible fragmentation of invasive weeds, such as Eurasian water milfoil, which can lead to its accelerated proliferation. Some lake communities have experimented with manual harvesting of lily pads with SCUBA, and while potentially effective, is tedious and expensive. Herbicides have been used on lily pads in the past in our lake, but chemical treatment is generally recommended for invasive weed control only.

A Tribute to Larry Leafblad—Mr. Highland Lake. Thanks, Larry!

The *Chicago Tribune* once described Larry Leafblad as a “maverick”, an independent-thinking Republican member of the Lake County Board whose unwillingness to cower to party bosses sometimes cost him important political endorsements. His support and advocacy for the Lake County Forest Preserves was one of his most notable achievements during his county board tenure.

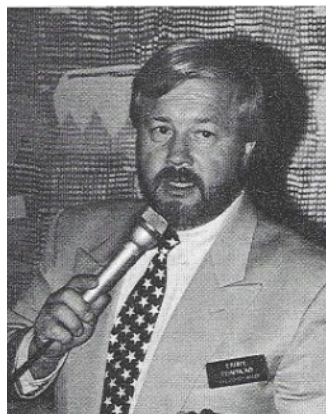
Many of us, of course, know Larry as the former long-time president of the Highland Lake Property Owners’ Association - a man whose leadership was fueled by his passion and love for our community.

Larry’s parents, Clara and Lorney Leafblad, built a home on Indian Trail Road where Larry and his three siblings spent a portion of their time growing up. Larry’s budding talent as a saxophonist paid off handily during the Vietnam years when he was selected to serve as a member of the United States Army Band. Once in uniform, he met and later joined with two fellow musicians to form the Scotch Lads, an ensemble that performed in our area for decades.

Some years ago, during a gig at the Alpine Country Club in Round Lake, Larry met Diane Harrington, the daughter of his friend and local Irish legend, Jim Harrington. Diane reportedly cracked up when Larry – wearing a large cowboy hat - sang “Long, Tall Texan,” since he was clearly none of those things. According to daughter Kate, the pair discussed potential children’s names on their first date. Once married and with three kids in tow, the family moved to Highland Lake in 1984. Their son, Eric, is now an attorney in the Kane County States’ Attorney office, and daughters Kate and Alice are special education teachers who independently returned to live here at the lake.

Diane was a first-grade teacher at Village School in Round Lake for many years. Her influence was strong enough that one of Larry’s campaign signs - Vote for Mrs. Leafblad’s Husband - surely garnered him a number of votes during his political career. Rumor has it that their former South Circle home’s basement once had an illicit “speakeasy” bar that operated during Prohibition.

While portions of this story have not been independently confirmed, the large burgundy-colored upholstered bar remains in the home, according to its current owner.



Larry Leafblad, Politician



The Scotch Lads. Larry in the middle.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season, we asked about Leafblad family Christmas traditions at the lake. Larry’s mother Clara, the daughter of Norwegian and Swedish immigrants, took it upon herself each year to host the entire Leafblad clan and regularly thrilled them with her Swedish meatballs, lutefisk and other Scandinavian delights. Clara passed away in 2014 at the age of 97 in the same Indian Trail home that she and Lorney had built years before.

In our lifetimes, neighbors come and neighbors go. Few, though, have left such a profound mark on the Highland Lake community as Larry and generations of Leafblads. His ability to find common ground, to ‘disagree without being disagreeable’, and to treat people in a kind and respectful manner are traits all too rare in today’s climate – political or otherwise. A hearty Highland Lake salute to Larry and Diane, and a big “thank you” from your friends and neighbors.

HLPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE FORM

BOARD TERM MARCH 2024 – MARCH 2026

Completed forms will be posted on the HLPOA Website

Name _____

Occupation _____

Number of years living at Highland Lake _____.

Your Address Area: (North Shore) (South Shore) (East Shore)
(HL Heights – Szontagh) (North Circle) (South Circle) (Off Shore).

Hours per week you can commit to HLPOA-related work _____.



What qualifications will you bring to the Board that you think would be helpful to the community?

Why are you seeking a position on the Board of Directors?

Are you a current Board member who will not have served a full 2-year term by March, 2024? _____

I certify that I am an HLPOA Member in good standing.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



Any newly elected (2024-2026) Board member who served an unfinished two-year term on the previous Board may work with the newly-established Board to choose either a one or two-year term in an effort to create staggered membership. **9 Board positions are open.**

PLEASE EMAIL THE COMPLETED CANDIDATE FORM TO HLPOA SECRETARY DEBI HALL AT debi3735@yahoo.com OR MAIL TO: HLPOA SECRETARY, P.O. BOX 101, GRAYSLAKE, IL. 60030. FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2023 IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2024 ELECTION.